

Halcombe School



RD 9, FEILDING

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Term 1 Week 2

8th February 2022

Tena Koutou Katoa - Greetings to all parents and caregivers

Kia Ora Tatou!

What a wonderful week last week was. Visiting classes, as I often do, it was pleasing to see the routines being established, the interaction and engagement of pupils, and the relationships between teachers and students being established - this is a great school to be a part of!

Something special about our place is the ability of a large school like ours to still have a very individual focus, and maintain a caring and highly relational environment.

The Triple A Values of Achievement, Attitude and Adventure feature strongly in what we do. Because of this, there is a clear focus on individuals doing their own personal best, having a resilient and a 'can-do' attitude, as well as really enjoying their learning and play.

I got this message from a parent this week: *'Halcombe School has honestly been amazing in all areas. We whole-heartedly believe that academically no school compares. This, along with the amazing dedicated teachers, support staff, Management and Board, the extensive opportunities Halcombe provides, the exposure to various academic and sporting events, the personal touch (no child is even 'lost in the system'), the community support - we could go on and on.'* This comment, and others like it, would make any principal proud. I know how fortunate we are to be involved here. I am sure that all of us feel the same way.

Have a great week.

Alastair & the 'H' Team.

Beach Trip

This is an exciting day to look forward to: our whole school trip to Foxton Beach THIS Thursday 10th February. Many thanks to those who are volunteering their time to come and help. We really appreciate your support. A reminder about the gear we need the kids to bring:

- shorts & t-shirt (no singlets please)
- jandals/scuffs/sandals (no shoes and socks please)
- morning tea & lunch, including a drink (water only)
- warm sweatshirt
- togs and towel (girls: wear togs underneath clothes, boys: wear togs and a t-shirt)
- underwear/clothes to put on after swimming
- sunhat & sunblock (please ensure students come to school with sunblock on already)

Community School Survey

This Google Survey was sent out last Friday to all parents. Thank you to those who have already had their say on a raft of questions. This is your chance to have your say on what happens, how we do things, and suggest things we can do in the future. Your ideas will be considered by the Board of Trustees in putting together our guiding document - The School Charter. Please don't miss your chance to have active input into your school.

COVID Updates

As numbers of cases grow in NZ, it may be a matter of time before our community and school are deeply affected. The teachers and I have been very aware and busy in planning.

Te Reo Maori

Having just had our Waitangi Day holiday, as a celebration of the founding of Aotearoa New Zealand, we are reminded how fortunate we are to have this place on Earth. The idea of partnership between treaty parties is a developing one. New Zealand has three official languages: English, Te Reo, and Sign. Te Reo is an area that we have been trying to do better than lip-service, and this year our staff are involved in some professional development to gain better understanding and skill. This will have an impact on classes and all students, as we bring our learning into classes. One thing we are learning is a generic, Halcombe School mihi. A mihi is a personal introduction and a connection to others and their place. We have been given a generic one for all pupils to learn. If your child has a mihi, or pepeha already, then that would be much better for them to know. Please have a talk to your child if this is the case and let your teacher know via the KIT Book. We are keen to support this learning.

Summer Sunburn Prevention

All children need to have full shoulder t-shirts to prevent sunburn. We have sunscreen applied in classes as required, but proper clothing is best to have at all times. Parents, please remember that a jersey worn in the morning is mostly taken off by morning tea, and your children are left with what is worn underneath. Bucket hats are being worn really well, and our students are gaining some good life-long habits around being sunsmart.

Senior Camps Coming Up

Best wishes to our senior classes for their camps next week. Room 5 and 6 are camping at school, while Room 7 and 8 are heading to the Kawhatau Outdoor Education Centre. Camps are a highlight of school life at Halcombe, and we are sure our students will enjoy bonding with their classmates and teacher, having adventures and making memories.

Front Corner Crossing

Our roads and carparks are very busy places at 3pm. If you're using the front car parks along Monteith Street, please cross at the corner, which is monitored by a staff member. Don't walk directly across the road, even if your car is directly opposite. Thank you for your support.

Smart Watches

We have noticed that an increasing number of children wear smartwatches to school. Teachers have noticed these are causing some disruption in class, as students gather round the 'screens'. We're monitoring this, and reminding students that class time is not the time to be checking how many steps they've done that day.